

tipped bill. The head was chestnut, the sides of the breast cinnamon, and as it flew the white in the wing was of course conspicuous. It was probably an eclipse male. This is a very early, so far as we know, the earliest recorded date for this rare duck. Strangely enough on Sept. 12, 1914, at almost exactly the same spot, a reddish headed bird was observed by the senior writer among about fifty American Widgeon, which were associated with a large flock of Black Duck. This 1914 bird was, however, not satisfactorily determined.—J. T. NICHOLS AND LUDLOW GRISCOM, *New York City*.

A Record of the Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus dominicus*) in the State of Washington.—This interesting species has never before, to my knowledge, been recorded as occurring in the State of Washington. It gives me pleasure, therefore, to announce the capture of an adult female at Dungeness, Clallum County, Washington. This bird was taken on Nov. 14, 1915, by Mr. F. P. McIntyre, of Tacoma, Wash., who very kindly presented it to me and the skin is now in my collection. Mr. McIntyre informs me that he saw about a dozen other plover resembling this one, but that he shot no more. It is possible that these, also, might have been *dominicus*, but the Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*) is a common visitor to Washington, so I think there is an equal possibility that the other birds seen might have belonged to that species.

Since obtaining the above mentioned specimen Mr. D. E. Brown, of Seattle, Wash., told me of a specimen of *C. d. dominicus* that was taken near there several years ago, but which I think was never recorded. Mr. Brown also saw what, owing to the great amount of yellow on the upper parts, he feels positive was another of this species a year or two ago on the Tacoma Flats. This was in the late spring and the bird was in full breeding plumage. Needless to say that Mr. Brown is well acquainted with *S. squatarola* in all plumages.

It seems very possible that certain of our shore birds are much more numerous as migrants in Washington than is generally believed. The Knot (*Tringa canutus*), for example, is given in the A. O. U. Check-List as rare on the Pacific coast. It is therefore, interesting to note that on May 11, 1913, Mr. Ray Gamble, of Tacoma, Wash., saw them in hundreds at Willapa Harbor, Wash. Mr. Gamble brought back quite a sufficient number to prove the truth of his report. In the spring of 1914, Mr. D. E. Brown found the Knots to be by no means rare.

Another species that has almost invariably reported as rare "on the Pacific coast south of British Columbia, except in Lower California" is the Pectoral Sandpiper (*Pisobia maculata*). I consider this species to be probably a regular fall migrant in the vicinity of Tacoma, Wash. Some years it is common, twenty or more being seen on a morning walk on the Tacoma Flats.

The same thing may be said of the Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*), which is usually recorded as rare on the Pacific coast of the United States. This

species is at times a common fall visitor, Mr. D. E. Brown seeing a flock of forty-eight on Aug. 16, 1913. The earliest arrival of which I have a record is one that I collected on July 25, 1913.

The study of the *Limicolæ* has been sadly neglected in the State of Washington, partly because of adverse laws. It may be for this reason that literature on the subject is occasionally in error, but it also seems possible to me that the shore birds may have to some extent changed their route of migration.—J. H. BOWLES, *Tacoma, Wash.*

Barn Owl in Massachusetts.—On Oct. 21, 1915, a fine full plumaged male Barn Owl (*Aluco pratincola*) was taken in a trap on my place at Wenham, Mass.—JOHN C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

Display of the Purple Finch.—On May 20, while at the path between the Flume House and the Flume, Crawford Notch, White Mts., N. H., I watched an interesting display of a male Purple Finch. There were two pairs of these birds. Close by me were two males and a female feeding on the ground, and perhaps twenty-five yards away a single female, also hopping about on the ground. Very suddenly one of the males jumped up and after a short rapid flight lit about six inches from the lone female, and stood bolt upright, and facing her with extended wings. He then began to vibrate his wings rapidly, but kept them extended all the while. The motion was so fast that the wings were blurred to the eye. I have seen a cock silver pheasant display in a somewhat similar way, sitting on a perch, only the vibration of the wings did not extend over so wide an arc.

The male finch kept this up for ten seconds, with perhaps only one or two brief intervals of arrested motion. Then the second male bird charged him and put him to flight. Evidently it was a case of trespass.—JOHN C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

Late Nesting of the Montana Junco.—On Sept. 1, 1912, while working on the western slope of the Teton Mountains of western Wyoming, I found the nest of a Junco, apparently belonging to the above species. The nest was on the ground among flowers and grass in a straggling grove of spruce trees and at an elevation of 9700 feet above sea. It contained four newly hatched young birds. As this level is only 200 feet below the average elevation of timber-line for the range, winter sets in much earlier than in the valleys of the same region. In that particular year a soft snow fell on the night of September 1 to a depth of over three inches, and at the end of twenty-four hours some of it was still left. Another snow-storm followed about five days later. I did not see the nest after the snow, but under such unfavorable circumstances it seems unlikely that the pair of Juncos was able to rear its brood to maturity. No doubt this was a case of abnormally late nesting, probably to be explained by some accident that prevented the birds from rearing broods that they may have had earlier in the summer.—ELIOT BLACKWELDER, *Madison, Wis.*